

Explosives Safety Bulletin

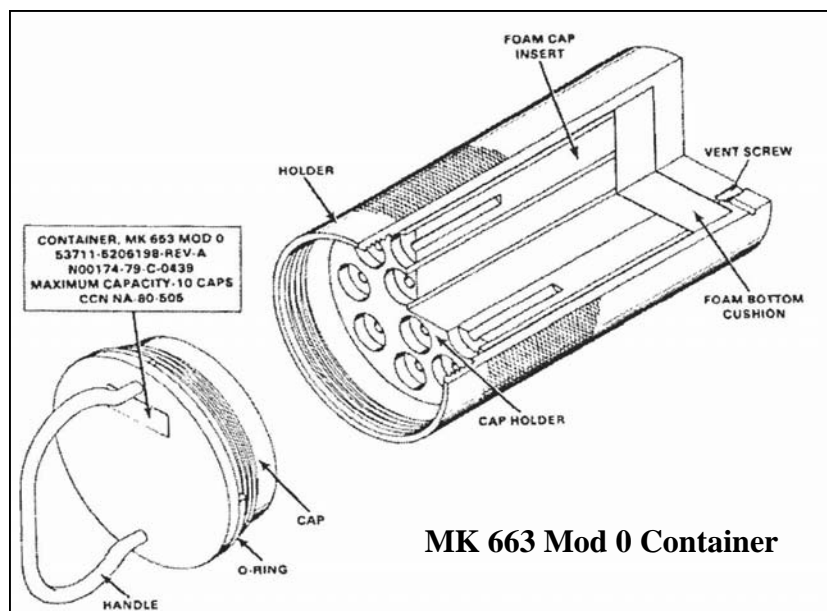
March 2011

<https://www3.dac.army.mil/es>

Storage of Very Small Amounts of Explosives

By: Risk Management Division
DSN 956-8877

At times there is a need to store very small amounts of high explosives. Such might be the case for a laboratory that might need to store gram sized samples of the explosives in order to be able to run comparative tests on impure samples or unknown compounds. Sometimes a laboratory is in a populated dense environment and finding the default minimum separation of 200 feet would not be possible and the situation would require a Certificate of Risk Acceptance (CoRA)...which seems excessive when considering the blast would be coming from a sample of a few grams of explosives. Explosives safety site plans have been approved where a wing of a building must be evacuated in order to conduct tests on very small explosives samples. A request from HQ, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) got the ball rolling on this issue. On 28 January 2011 the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) approved one solution to the storage aspect of this problem.



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The DDESB approved the use of the MK 663 Mod 0 blasting cap container for storage of up to 10 grams of high explosives. With the lid screwed on the MK 663 Mod 0, there is no Quantity Distance (QD) arc required for up to 10 grams of explosives. Now, provided the lid stays on, you can store very small amounts of explosives inside the lab without a QD arc. If the sample is needed for testing, then QD rules would apply to that sample(s) undergoing tests; but while the explosives are in storage, which is most of the time, use of the MK663 Mod 0 container(s) would result in a zero QD arc from the laboratory or similar facility. Plus, given the thick steel skin of the MK 663 Mod 0 container, it is immune to lightning. So, by broadening the use of an existing tool, the explosives safety community has increased safety and decreased explosives safety distance separations. It's a win/win situation. Copies of the DDESB approval of the MK 663 Mod 0 container for laboratory samples is available on the Explosives Safety Toolbox under Tools.

One note of caution, the MK 663 Mod 0 was initially approved for storage and shipping of blasting caps. This DDESB expansion of the role of the MK 663 Mod 0 does not authorize its use as a shipping container for laboratory sized samples.

Do You Have Your List and Have You Checked It Twice?

By: Explosives Safety Risk Management Division
DSN 956-8706

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Do you have the required documentation on hand for all your explosives operating and storage locations? As a reminder, on 2 July 2010, the Director of Army Safety issued a memorandum specifying record keeping requirements for documenting the Explosives Safety Site Plan (ESSP) status of all existing explosives facilities. A copy of the memorandum is available at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/28815522>.

Effective 2 January 2011, each Army installation is to have compiled a comprehensive listing of all existing explosives facilities. Each explosives facility identified by building number, facility type (earth-covered magazine, aboveground magazine, operating building, etc.), and user/owner activity, as applicable, and placed in one of the following categories:

- a. Facility has an approved ESSP or an ESSP has been submitted for approval.
- b. Facility is grandfathered and the required documentation is on file.
- c. Facility has a properly executed risk assessment and Certificate of Risk Acceptance (CoRA).
- d. Facility does not have an ESSP (approved or submitted), is not grandfathered, and does not have a properly executed Certificate of Risk Acceptance.
- e. ESSP not required per DA Pamphlet 385-64.

Hybrid Site Plan

By: Explosives Safety Knowledge, MEC,
and Chemical Division DSN 956-8804

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The Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) has begun accepting and approving a new type of Explosives Safety Site Plans (ESSPs) that do not meet all the explosives safety requirements in DOD 6055.09-M. This new type of site plan provides a mechanism for an installation/organization to formally site a location that otherwise could not be sited in the past.

The hybrid site plan utilizes an approved explosives safety deviation (Certificate of Risk Acceptance (CoRA) to acknowledge the portion of the submission that does not meet explosives safety criteria, and the remainder of the site plan is used to site the portions that do meet the criteria. The explosives safety deviation with accompanying detailed hazard analysis document the non-complaint condition(s), the alternatives considered and why they could not be implemented, and the mitigating measures put in place to reduce the risk from the non-compliant condition. The complete explosives safety deviation package must accompany the submission when submitted to the installation/organization's Service Safety Center (US Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (USATCES), Air Force Safety Center (AFSC), or Naval Ordnance Safety & Security Activity (NOSSA)] and DDESB.

An example of a recent Army hybrid submission involved a Field Ammunition Supply Point (ASP). The trailers used as a field office and break area were not located at Intraline Distance (ILD). Because of the terrain, relocating the trailers outside ILD would have seriously impacted the organization's ability to execute its mission of supporting unit personnel undergoing training in the maneuver area. The installation prepared a CoRA and hazard analysis identifying the hazards, options considered, and mitigating measures to be implemented to reduce the risk to exposed personnel. The site plan submission requested Army and DDESB approval of the Field ASP, requested explosives limits, and the associated Inhabited Building Distance (IBD) and Public Traffic Route Distance (PTRD) arcs. The submission included the CoRA and hazard analysis which were approved by the installation commander and acknowledged that the trailers did not meet ILD. Due to the completeness of the submission, it received Army and DDESB approval without issue.

Additional details on the hybrid submission will be found in DDESB Technical Paper (TP) 26 when it is finalized and published.

2011 Army Explosives Safety Seminar

By: Explosives Safety Risk Management Division
DSN 956-8756

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The 2011 Army Explosive Safety Seminar (AESS) scheduled to be held 21 – 23 June at the Sparkman Center in Huntsville, AL, has been cancelled. The U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosive Safety (USTCES) appreciates the large amount of interest expressed by the Explosive Safety (ES) community for the seminar. Other venues are being explored to provide the training that was to be shared during the seminar. Any future developments will be posted in the Explosive Safety Bulletin and shared along other ES communications channels.

SDDC Conducts Munitions Emergency Response ROC Drill and Exercise

By: Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

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On February 16, 2011, the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), in collaboration with the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) Surface Committee, sponsored a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill and tabletop exercise at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois to rehearse roles and identify potential gaps in emergency incident response for surface transportation of DOD Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives (AA&E).

Due to the safety and security risks associated with transporting explosives and other sensitive material throughout the United States, it's imperative that the Department of Defense (DOD) and its commercially contracted AA&E

first responders, and Department of Transportation. This broad participation highlights the many agencies involved in a response to, and follow-up after an accident or incident involving AA&E.

Background

All trucks carrying DOD AA&E throughout the United States are equipped with real-time satellite tracking and communications technologies, which allow truck position reports to be automatically routed and shared with SDDCs' DTTS. DTTS is a computer-based system monitored by a staff that provides 24-hour oversight of sensitive DOD shipments, moving via commercial motor carriers throughout the United States and Canada. In FY2010, DTTS tracked more than 73,000 motor shipments.

Any incident associated with a DTTS-monitored shipment is reported to the DTTS Operations Center located at SDDC headquarters. DTTS personnel use digitized mapping and pre-loaded shipment information to notify local first responders and provide the nearest police and fire departments with the location and contents of the shipment.

Meeting Format

Following opening remarks from Major General Kevin A. Leonard, SDDCs' Commanding General, a previous ABC News 20/20 episode was shown to help illustrate both the potential consequences of an incident and the importance of a strong emergency response capability. The segment was titled "The Day they Bombed Checotah" and it documented the 4 August 1985 incident where a truck loaded with ten MK-84 2000 lb bombs collided with an automobile on Interstate 40 near Checotah, Oklahoma at approximately 3:30 AM. The automobile's fuel tank ruptured and spilled gasoline which quickly ignited. Subsequent explosions from the bombs destroyed the vehicles and left a crater in the roadway 27 feet deep and 35 feet across. Three hundred and seventy-one residences were damaged. Other buildings, including a school located 734 feet from the accident site, suffered substantial damage. Forty-nine persons reported to a hospital emergency room for treatment of injuries, most after breathing smoke and gases burning tritonal. There were no fatalities, largely due to the early morning timing of the accident, but also because of the actions taken by the truck driver to quickly evacuate himself and the passengers of the other vehicle. Following the video, the event was broken into two sessions. The morning session included a ROC drill where the key players briefed their unique responsibilities, procedures, concerns, and challenges as they relate to an emergency response.



Photos of accident near Checotah, OK 4 Aug 1985

carriers clearly understand and execute the emergency response and notification process. While DOD and its carriers have a robust response and notification capability, this exercise brought key response organizations together for the first time to demonstrate and potentially enhance those capabilities.

Key Players

The key players included SDDC's Defense Transportation Tracking System (DTTS), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, Quality Assurance Specialists – Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS), and AA&E shipping and receiving activities. These representatives hailed from various SDDC staff agencies, the Joint Munitions Command (JMC), Defense Ammunition Center, and the Army's 20th Support Command. Besides DOD participation, the day included briefings and exercise participation from commercial AA&E carriers, state and local

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The afternoon session included a tabletop exercise where the key players participated in a simulation of notional emergencies involving motor shipments. Four scenarios were exercised with two on safety and two on security. The safety scenarios included a truck being involved in a minor accident that resulted in damages to the blocking and bracing of the cargo and a severe accident that resulted in a detonation of explosives. The security scenarios included an incident where a truck driver witnessed and reported suspicious activity while on the roadway and the hi-jacking of a truck.



Photos of accident near Checotah, OK 4 Aug 1985

A facilitator led the action players through each scenario and periodically interjected new information and questions to spur discussion. The intent of the exercise was not to test the participants, rather it served as an opportunity to share information and identify potential gaps in an informal environment.

Lessons Learned and Takeaways

The ROC drill and table top exercise proved to be very effective methods of clarifying roles and responsibilities across organizations. The event reinforced many of the things that DOD and its partners do well, but also highlighted some areas for further assessment.

As with any meeting involving experts from multiple areas

of discipline working their way through a particular process, issues are identified for re-evaluation. This drill was no different. The issue of tasking authority and process for deploying QASAS, or their Service equivalent, revealed itself as needing more clarification. As a result, more work lies ahead to clarify and identify the tasking authority and process for requesting support.

The tabletop scenarios also helped identify some areas where carriers should offer additional training and education to their employees and drivers. Some of these areas included responsibilities for obtaining in-transit support (e.g. tow trucks, material handling equipment), protocols for cleaning up an accident scene, and reacting to incidents involving fire.

Next Steps

SDDC and the NDTA Surface Committee are currently coordinating and developing an action plan to address potential gaps and issues that were identified during the event.

Overall, attendees provided extremely positive feedback on the event format and effectiveness for clarifying roles and identifying gaps. Most attendees recommended that SDDC conduct other ROC drills and exercises using different scenarios, commodities, and modes of transportation in the future.

About SDDC

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command is a unique Army command that delivers world-class, origin-to-destination distribution solutions. Whenever and wherever Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are deployed, SDDC is involved in planning and executing the surface delivery of their equipment and supplies.

SDDC is the Army Service Component Command of the U.S. Transportation Command and is a major subordinate command to Army Materiel Command. This relationship links USTRANSCOM's Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise and AMC's Materiel Enterprise. The command also partners with the commercial transportation industry as the coordinating link between DOD surface transportation requirements and the capability industry provides.

More information on SDDC is available at: www.army.mil/sddc.

For any Explosives Safety Bulletin inquiries (questions, comments, subscribe, unsubscribe), click [here](#).

For past bulletins, go to the [Explosives Safety Bulletin Index](#)

Ammunition and Explosives, store it anywhere...right?

By: Explosives Safety Knowledge, MEC,
and Chemical Division DSN 956-8155

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The answer to the above question is, “NO” as the unit owning the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle and two ISO containers of ammo learned to their regret.

At approximately 19:13 on 22 March 2011, a fire occurred in an ISO container located adjacent to billeting in a cantonment area of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Afghanistan. The fire department responded and after coordinating with Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) determined the fire was too dangerous to fight due to the continuing explosions and the subsequent fragments and flying debris. Personnel were evacuated from the immediate area and relocated to protective shelters. Firefighting efforts being limited by safety concerns, the fire spread to an adjacent ISO container and a MRAP.



Happily, no one was hurt. However, the two containers and an MRAP were destroyed at an estimated cost of \$750,000.



Local Explosive Safety personnel were unaware that any ammunition/explosives (AE) were, against all DoD/Army regulatory requirements or common sense, being stored outside the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP). Currently, other improperly stored AE is being moved into the ASP.

The desire to keep one's “tools of their trade” handy is understandable but AE is a different breed from, for example, hammers or wire cutters, in that AE is made specifically to kill and destroy. The basic human sense of self preservation should encourage everyone from the most “fresh off the plane” Private to the most star-bedecked General to demand that all the regulations are followed and that AE is properly stored in an approved ammunition storage area (ASA). Do you want to be the soldier that survives X number of patrols, multiple IED incidents and daily incoming fire only to die in your bunk because someone was too lazy to take their AE back to the ASA after a mission?

Remember, storing AE at unauthorized locations is against DoD/Army regulations and can potentially damage or destroy Army property, personnel and/or careers.



ISO to Earth Covered Magazine

By: Explosives Safety Knowledge, MEC,
and Chemical Division DSN 956-8155

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Follow me on this... There is an obscure mention in the appendix of a reference to an explosives safety regulation that allows you to make an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) container into an earth covered magazine (ECM) by using a few HESCOs, sandbags and dirt. Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB), Technical Paper 15 (TP-15), Revision 3, May 2010, Approved Protective Construction, Appendix 1-3, references a drawing called, "Shipping Container, Earth-Covered", with an "unknown" drawing date and a description of "ISO and MILVAN container". This was designed by the Defense Ammunition Center, more particularly the US Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (USATCES) in early 1995 and approved by the DDESB in May 1995. An obscure and dated memo explains the process of making an "ISO to Earth Covered Magazine". This article is in an attempt to enlighten our explosives safety brethren on a simple construction option whereby troop labor, SEABEES, Red Horse, or the Corps of Engineers could make an earth covered magazine from ISO containers and HESCOs that not only improves explosives safety, but decreases the potential for initiation from indirect fire.

Recently the USATCES shook the dust off the 1995 memo that gave units the option of using stacked MILVAN/ISO containers and HESCO Bastion concertainers to create an undefined ECM. USATCES looked at how the ISO to ECM concept could be applied in our current deployed situations. USATCES determined that it can still be accomplished by stacking two ISO containers, filling the top container with 3 ft of sand bags, creating a head wall with HESCO concertainers, and covering the entire setup with 10.5 feet of earth (completely covering the lower container, and 2.5

feet up the side of the top container, with a slope of 2 to 1). This, essentially, converts the bottom MILVAN/ISO container into an undefined ECM. See figure 1 for the general layout. USATCES also developed new Drawings, Quantity Distance (QD) Tables, and even overhead drawings with QD Arcs. These are available in both portable document format (pdf) and drawing (dwg) formats.

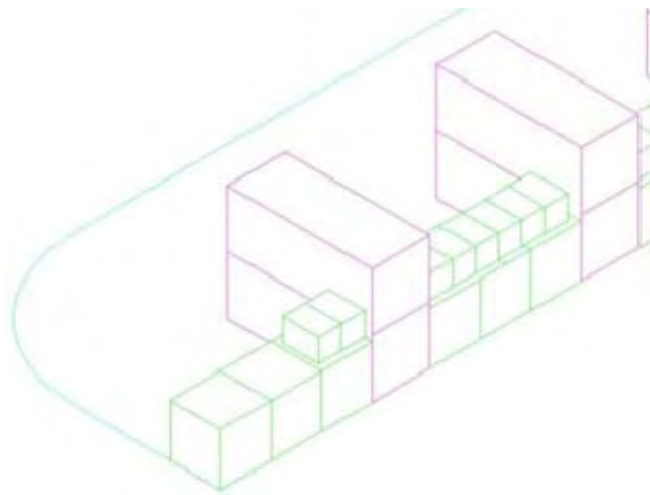


Figure 1: ISO to ECM with 21 foot separation of containers

Don't forget, you still need a DDESB approved site plan. When built properly, these types of magazines can be sited using Basic Load Ammunition Holding Area (BLAHA) criteria or undefined ECM criteria. As an example, under BLAHA criteria each of these magazines can be sited for 1157 lbs. net explosives weight (NEW) when separated by 21 ft. This NEW would require a separation of 189 ft. for intraline separation, 591 ft. for public traffic routes (PTR) and 886 ft. for inhabited building distance (IBD). Under ECM criteria, for the same configuration, they could be sited for 4,741 lbs. NEW each, but would require 269 ft. for intraline separation, 750 ft. for PTR, and

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1250 ft. for IBD. By varying the distance between the magazines the explosives limits can be revised. In most cases it is physically difficult to store more than 5,000 lbs. NEW in one single MILVAN/ISO container.

Can this design solve all your ammo storage woes? No, but it is one alternative storage facility that can be constructed for a fraction of the price when compared to concrete ECMs, it can be constructed using troop labor and material that are common to most installations during peacetime and contingency, and can be constructed in a fraction of the time as traditional ECMs. Note: This

configuration does not contain an integral lightning protection system. Personnel will need to evacuate the area during a lightning storm and the local commander will be required to accept the possible loss of the facility and stored material in the remote chance lighting were to cause a detonation. ISO containers act as a faraday cage, and detonation due to lightning is considered improbable when the doors of the containers are closed and explosives materials are kept 1/2 inch from the opening between the two front doors. For the new drawing package please contact DSN 956-8877.

Mandatory Use of Explosives Safety Siting (ESS)

By: Risk Management Division
DSN 956-8007

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In accordance with paragraph 5-6.c(1) of AR 385-10, by 1 October 2011, all explosives safety site plans will be submitted electronically using Office of the Director of Army Safety (ODASAF) - approved software. The Explosives Safety Siting (ESS) software is the ODASAF approved software to be used by the Army.

Army is in the process of deploying the ESS software at installations with ammunition and explosives (AE) storage, operating facilities, and training missions. Effective immediately, only ESS generated site plans will be accepted by US Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (USATCES) from installations that have had successful installation of the ESS software. If an installation has a site plan to submit and has not had the software installed, they can contact USATCES for expediting

software installation.

ESS is not being deployed to installations with small or static explosives missions. These locations will meet the requirement for submitting automated site plans by converting required documents to PDF format and sending via email, uploading to a secure server such as AKO or mailing a DVD. If your installation is not scheduled for ESS installation, the requirement for submission as a PDF is also effective immediately. Contact USATCES for any questions regarding deployment of the ESS software.

Additionally, per memo DASC-SF, 10 Mar 11, Subject: Mandated Use of Explosives Safety Siting (ESS) Software, once ESS is successfully installed only ESS generated electronic submissions will be accepted by USATCES. The memo can be viewed at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/28820174>.

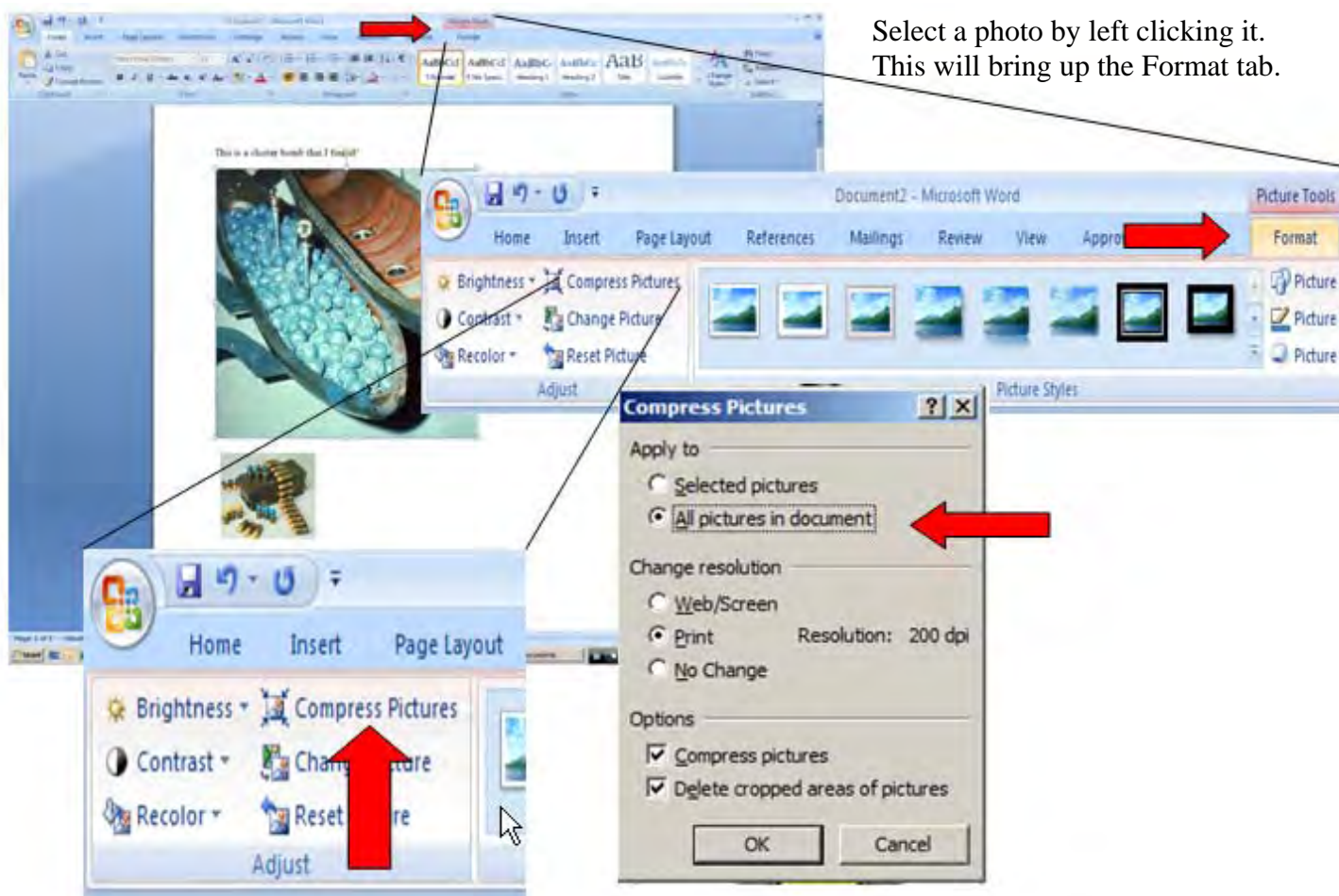
Tip For Sending Picture Heavy Reports

By: Explosives Safety Knowledge, MEC, and Chemical Division
DSN 956-8155

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“A picture is worth 1000 words”, or so the old adage goes, or, as attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, “A good sketch is better than a long speech”. The idea is that what might take a page of type to describe can be understood with a single glance at a photo. This is certainly true when it comes to explosives safety/surveillance reports from the field. As helpful as they are, the downside of inserting photos into the reports is the report can become quite large. Large reports can impact both the sender’s and receiver’s mailbox limits and can slow down internet traffic in places where the connection to the internet is rudimentary. Most reports are written in Microsoft Word and there is a way to reduce the amount of information in the inserted photos, and thus the size of the report, while retaining the information.

Example, a photo of a cluster bomb and some 40MM have been inserted into the report:



Click on ‘Compress Pictures’ and, in the pop-up, select ‘All pictures in document’. The amount of compression, and subsequent document size reduction, will vary but there have been files that have gone from 5MB to 500KB with this technique. Naturally, the document should be saved before applying the compression in case the results are sub-par.

Safety Alerts

By: Explosives Safety Knowledge, MEC,
and Chemical Division DSN 956-8748

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SAFETY ALERT

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, US FORCES-AFGHANISTAN
NEW KABUL COMPOUND, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09356

Turret Gunner Ricochet Hazard

Observation. Gunners using their individual weapon (usually an M4 carbine) while in the Objective Gunner Protection Kit (OGPK) have shot and hit elements of the OGPK causing ricochets that have severely wounded themselves and other crew members inside the vehicle.

Discussion. A phenomenon called "parallax off-set" can allow a gunner to see a target, while the weapon muzzle may still not be clear of the intended target line. Firing from within the OGPK can result in bullets being fired into the inside armor and ballistic shield causing bullets to ricochet about the turret and into the crew compartment.

Lesson learned. Having a clear line of sight on the target does not ensure the bullet travel path from the barrel is clear.

Improper position:
Shows gunner with clear line of sight thru optics with bullet path set to ricochet against the turret shield.



Proper position:
Shows muzzle clear of the turret shield and bracing against top of the turret shield allows for a steadier aim.



Recommendation.


- Individual weapons should be test fired from the dismounted position (on the ground) or by having another crew member test fire the weapon when gunner dismounting is not feasible.
- Maintain muzzle awareness at all times.
- When an individual weapon is fired from the turret, gunners should brace against the forward edge of the OGPK or as far forward as possible and support the rifle on the OGPK ensuring the barrel extends beyond the edge of the turret shield.
- Ensure weapons are on safe at all times until ready to engage a target.

SAFETY ALERT

USFOR-A Safety Kabul
DSN 318-449-4830

SAFETY ALERT

USFOR-A Safety (S/SW)
DSN 318-841-1160/1442




•Keep ammunition, explosives, and expended brass and links separated.
•Leaders ensure you have an effective amnesty program for ammunition and explosives.

The mission is over...

Do you know where your grenade went?

ASP and DLA turn-in points continue to find live rounds and even grenades among expended brass and links.

Your negligence may lead to someone's death!



If you are unsure what to do with excess ammunition or explosives, contact EOD or the ASP under the amnesty program.

SAFETY ALERT

References:
SB 742-1 DA PAM 710-2-1 DA PAM 385-64

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Safety Alerts

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SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

IMPROPER PACKAGING OF SIGNALS IN PA 142 CONTAINER

INCORRECTLY PLACING A SIGNAL
IN A CONTAINER CAN CAUSE THE
END-CAP TO BECOME LODGED
INSIDE THE PA 142 WHEN THE
SIGNAL IS REMOVED



ALWAYS CHECK INSIDE A PA 142
CONTAINER BEFORE REPACKAGING



PRIMER END ALWAYS TO THE BOTTOM



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USFOR-A THEATER OPERATIONAL SAFETY OFFICE

DSN : 318-449-4830 (Kabul) 318-841-1160/1442 (Kandahar)

SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

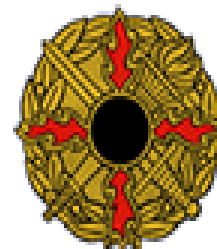
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Frequently Asked Questions

By: Risk Management Division
DSN 956-8806

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Q DOD 6055.09-M volume 7 paragraph V7E5.1.1 states “The Munitions Rule (MR) takes precedence over these standards.” Does this mean that if the waste munitions are being stored under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit requirements that Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) requirements do not apply, i.e., explosives site planning, quantity distance, lightning protection, etc.?

A Take a look at the paragraph from the DOD 6055.09-M Volume 7: V7.E5.2.2 RCRA “Storage. Waivers and exemptions from this Manual shall only be available to the DOD Components storing waste munitions under RCRA unit standards (e.g., subpart EE, part 264 of Reference (k). The approval authority for these waivers and exemptions is the Secretary of the Military Department, who may delegate the authority no lower than an assistant secretary.” This means that all the requirements of DOD 6055.09-M continue to apply unless specifically waived or exempted by the Secretary of the Army or a delegated assistant secretary.

Q I have an ARMAG that stores Hazard Division (HD) 1.4 type munitions which has a Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) approved site plan with a 75-foot Inhabited Building Distance (IBD). I need to store a small amount of HD 1.3. Does this require the submission of a new site plan?

A No, you do not need to submit a new site plan at this storage area as long as the hazard is not increased. Not increasing the hazard means the Net Explosives Weight (NEW) for HD 1.3 cannot exceed the 75-foot IBD that was approved by DDESB. Per DOD 6055.09-M, Table V3.E3.T14, you would be allowed to store up to 1000lbs of HD 1.3 with an IBD of 75ft.

Q When Public Works (PW) carpenters provide the labor for blocking and bracing of ammunition shipments (they do not load or unload ammo), what training would be recommended?

A In accordance with the Defense Transportation Regulation, DOD 4500.9, they are not required to be certified in Technical Transportation of Hazardous Materials (AMMO 62) as long as they are under the direction of someone that is HAZMAT certified. As a minimum they should take Introduction to Ammunition (Ammo 45), have on-the-job training (OJT), and review any Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs). Additionally, we recommend Technical Ammunition (Ammo 60).